



News Release

For Immediate Release:
Wednesday, November 24, 2004

Utah Families Thankful for Health Care Coverage

***Utah Department of Health Announces CHIP Open Enrollment –
Parents Can Also Apply for PCN during the Open Enrollment***

(Salt Lake City, UT) – As families throughout Utah prepare to gather around the Thanksgiving table, they traditionally take stock of things in their lives for which they are most thankful, such as; family, friends, health and freedom. A Utah Department of Health (UDOH) survey indicates that Utahns are thankful for the comfort health care coverage provides, as fewer families stated they went without insurance because they felt it was safe to do so. This makes Thanksgiving the ideal time for the UDOH to announce the upcoming open enrollment for Utah's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), **Monday, January 10 – Tuesday, January 25, 2005.**

During this CHIP open enrollment, parents may also apply for the Primary Care Network (PCN). Parents, grandparents, teachers, coaches and others can now obtain materials and applications. CHIP/PCN will accept all eligible Utah children and parents who apply for CHIP/PCN in January 2005.

“Utah Department of Health research indicates that Utahns place a high priority on obtaining health insurance,” says Scott Williams, M.D., Executive Director, UDOH. “CHIP offers peace of mind for parents regarding their children, but many parents themselves are without health insurance. We are pleased to accept applications from families for both CHIP and PCN, so that we can help the whole family and process both applications at the same time.”

Learn more about CHIP or PCN call 1-877-KIDS-NOW to receive an application by mail or to find a UDOH eligibility office in your area.

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Beginning **January 10** and ending **January 25**, applications will be accepted in person, online at www.health.utah.gov/chip or by mail between January 10 and January 25. The dates and length of this enrollment period were determined by how many children are enrolled in the program and the available funding.

What is CHIP?

CHIP is a health insurance plan for children funded jointly by the federal and state government. To receive CHIP, children must qualify based on family size and household income. For example, a family of four earning up to \$37,700 a year may qualify. To qualify, children must also be younger than 19, U.S. citizens or legal residents and not currently covered by health insurance. Once enrolled in CHIP, families may be required to pay premiums of up to \$25 every three months. Premiums and small co-pays make it possible for CHIP to insure more children.

What is PCN?

PCN provides preventive medical and dental health insurance to adults. If you are uninsured, age 19-64, and have children at home under age 19, and meet other guidelines, you may qualify. During this open enrollment, each child's CHIP application will be examined for the parents' PCN eligibility. So, if your child is applying for CHIP, you do not need to complete a separate application for PCN. If your child is not applying for CHIP, you may submit a PCN application by mail, online at www.health.utah.gov/pcn or drop one off at an UDOH eligibility office near you.

Beginning in early January, the UDOH will conduct "A Good Call for Kids" media campaign featuring children who have benefited from CHIP. Open enrollment information will be disseminated through community partners, including schools, childcare agencies, and advocacy groups. For more information, visit www.health.utah.gov/chip or call 1-877-KIDS-NOW (1-877-543-7669).

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The mission of the Utah Department of Health is to protect the public's health through preventing avoidable illness, injury, disability and premature death, assuring access to affordable, quality health care, and promoting healthy lifestyles.